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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 236.



TU-DECEMBER, 1962

Record Employment Set for November

The start of the winter labor market cycle in Montana exerted less than the normal pressure on the state's various job fronts during November. Favorable weather, coupled with steady trends in the basically stable industry groups, pushed non-farm employment to the highest November total of record. Estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that 172,500 wage earners received paychecks at mid-November from the state's industrial employers. Although down seasonally by 1,700 from the October level, the figure was 3,500 above November a year ago. It was 2,100 more than the previous November high set in 1956.

Monthly Decline Below Normal

The 1,700 employment decline from October to November was largely a reflection of seasonal influences. Moderate month-to-nonth job losses were recorded in seven of the eight major industry groups. Manufacturing headed the list with a decline of 600 from November. Temporary furlough of logging workers was common throughout the month because of muddy roads. The windup of sugar beet refining operations idled seasonal food processing workers.

Government employment was down 500 from October, with all of the curtailment at the federal level as forest service, irrigation, and other workers wound up seasonal activities.

Other employment declines from October were in construction, down 300; transporta-

Winter Labor Market Scene Best Ever With Employment Directions Brighter

The Montana economy was on the move as 1962 drew to a close. Record setting employment levels and substantially reduced unemployment compensation claim figures reflected a healthy economic complexion. There were more wage earners, more paychecks and more job orders from the state's employers this year than last. Industrial job placements by the 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service were up 25 per cent over last November. Job orders from the state's non-farm employers increased by 36 per cent from last year. Initial claims for unemployment insurance were down by 31 per cent from a year ago. The optimistic trend will carry over into the new year.

tion, communications and utilities, down 200; mining, trade industries, and finance, insurance and real estate, each down 100. The service industries recorded the only gain over October payrolls, with an increment of 200.

Year-to-Year Margin Good

Comparison with year ago figures show substantial employment gains in three industries, slight declines in three, while two remained the same. The big gain was in manufacturing, up 2,500 from last November largely as the result of increased activity at missile site launching facilities and a healthy lumber market picture. Construction payrolls were up by 900 as favorable weather allowed most building projects to continue without interruption. Government employment showed a gain of 700, all of it at the state and local level. Employment in mining, and finance, insurance and real estate units remained unchanged from a year ago. Slight declines from a year ago occurred in transportation, utilities and communications, down 400; trade industries, down 300; and the service industries, down 100.

Industry Expansion—Butte and Billings

Announcement of two major projects will add to the state's economic strength in the years to come. A \$15 million project to expand refinery operations at Billings and construction of a pipe line from Billings to Sinclair, Wyoming, is on the agenda of the Continental Oil Company. Expansion of refinery facilities is underway while pipeline construction is scheduled to start next spring.

Early stages of construction of a \$1 million dollar zinc ore concentrator plant is in progress at Butte. This is in addition to the multi-million dollar copper concentrator plant now under construction, employing 700 men. Working force on this project will expand to 1,200 by next spring. The upswing in Butte metal mining operations has created a shortage of experienced hard rock miners. Out-of-state recruitment has failed to cut the shortage to any great extent. Training classes for hard rock miners under the Manpower Development and Training Act began in Butte on December 10th. A program schedule for training 100 hard rock miners has been set up.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

		AC	CESSIC	ON RA	TE					SEPARATION RATE						
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff			
	1)Oct. 1962	2) Sep. 1962	Oct. 1961	Oct. 1962	Sept. 1962	Oct. 1961	Oct. 1962	Sept. 1962	Oct. 1961	Oct. 1962	Sept. 1962	Oct. 1961	Oct. 1962	Sept. 1962	Oct. 1961	
3) All Manufacturing Durable Goods Primary Metal 3) Nondurable Goods	7.5	6.4 7.4 5.6 3.9	4.2 4.8 8.6 3.1	4.8 6.0 2.7 1.8	5.2 5.8 1.2 3.7	2.8 2.9 2.8 2.5	5.4 6.4 3.1 2.9	7.9 8.5 5.8 6.6	5.1 5.8 6.9 3.7	3.0 3.5 .8 1.8	4.5 4.6 2.7 4.5	1.3 1.6 1.1 .8	1.0 1.1 .2 .8	1.4 1.4 .8 1.3	2.1 2.1 .1 2.2	
All Mining Metal Mining	12.3 15.3	8.7 10.8	6.1 7.6	4.9 4.0	2.6 1.2	1.9 1.2	6.4 4.6	9.4 10.7	5.2 4.1	2.9 3.1	5.6 5.4	1.5 1.3	1.8	2.8 4.0	2.3 .7	

⁾ Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures revised on more complete returns. 3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Nov. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg -(260 jobseekers, 68 new, 143 men, 117 women). Employment patterns holding up well in most industry groups with exception of main street hiring. Bulk of November hiring occurred in manufacturing and service industries. Lumber industry hiring also active. Farm labor demand down sharply.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,069 jobseekers, 781 new, 1,304 men, 765 women). Employment held at high levels throughout November as mild weather allowed most outside work to continue. Good agenda of construction in progress including commercial and home building and highway work. Yellowtail Dam work force reudeed to 250 for winter months with employment ex-pected to climb to 800 by mid-summer. Trade and service hiring up with approach of holiday season. Little change noted in employment in oil fields and transportation industry. Sugar beet refining at Hardin and Billings nearing close.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident -(412 jobseekers, 213 new, 215 men, 197 women). Labor market trends continue active in construction, lumbering and trade industries. Some employment reduction noted in manufacturing. Near peak activity in lumbering and logging with logs being stockpiled to last through winter and spring break-up.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(943 jobscekers, 450 new, 471 men, 472 women). Area activity on the upswing with increased mining operations. Shortage of experienced hard rock miners exists. Training of 100 men under the Manpower Development and Training Act started early December will relieve some pressure of shortage. Construction trends still strong with exception of highway work closed for winter. Main street hiring for holiday season will provide temporary jobs for 150.

CUT BANK—(296 jobseekers, 73 new, 218 men, 78 women). Employment directions in most industries holding at steady levels. Construction activity still in good force with work progressing on highway projects, city water mains and street repair. Main street hiring for holiday season started. Farm labor demand slow and chiefly for hay hauling and general repair work.

DILLON-(117 jobseekers, 70 new, 89 men, 28 women). Labor demand in industry and farm above normal seasonal levels. Building and dam construction continues on steady schedule with only temporary weather caused interruptions. Farm labor demand chiefly for herding, fencing, and general repair work.

158.3

158.2

159.6

165.5

170.9

1962

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	Nov. Avg.
1962	1962	1961	1953-61
172,500	174,200	169,000	165,480
4,112	3,834	4,050	4,360
9,316	8,289	14,059	10,527 Avg. 1st
Dec. 7	Nov. 2	Dec. 8	Dec. Wk.
1962	1962	1961	1958-62
1,617	716	1,745	1,836
4,628	2,587	7,792	8,027
6,245	3,303	9,537	9,863
	1962 172,500 4,112 9,316 Dec. 7 1962 1,617 4,628	1962 1962 172,500 174,200 4,112 3,834 9,316 8,289 Dec. 7 Nov. 2 1962 1962 1,617 716 4,628 2,587	1962 1962 1961 172,500 174,200 169,000 4,112 3,834 4,050 9,316 8,289 14,059 Dec. 7 Nov. 2 Dec. 8 1962 1962 1961 1,617 716 1,745 4,628 2,587 7,792

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim -(186 jobseekers, 83 new, 99 men, 87 women). Construction and other outdoor employment maintained at high levels in light of favorable weather. Air base projects employing 175 workers with another 50 working on new housing units. Civil Service employment at air base remains at 300. Trade volume below normal after active business of past two months.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(117 jobseekers, 48 new, 68 men, 49 women). Job placements above last year with increased volume of construction and oil field work. All skilled craftsmen employed. Completed projects include interstate highway unit and clinic. New courthouse to be completed by April. Farm labor demand chiefly for livestock care and general maintenance.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,377 jobseekers, 570 new, 871 men, 506 women). Area labor market trends keeping above seasonal levels with only moderate declines in construction as some projects reach completion. November hiring most active in trade segments with more employment expansion forecast for December. Good demand for sales clerks and stenographers. Missile site launching facilities provided more jobs for technicians and clerical personnel.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(132 jobseekers, 65 new, 88 men, 44 women). Unemployment this November but half of last year's figure. Good employment levels in construction and lumbering, and employment of 100 men under the public works program adds up to a healthier economic climate this year. Volume of unemployment claims reduced by two-thirds from last year. Only moderate farm hiring.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem-295 jobseekers, 151 new, 254 men, 41 women). Industrial hiring showed slight increase over last month and last year, but farm labor demand down from last November. Most decline came from construction work on \$2 million high school suspended until spring. Public works program on Rocky Boy Indian Reservation started with employment potential of 50. Some reduction in railroad employment expected next month.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs-(511 jobseekers, 204 new, 313 men, 198 women). November employment remained unseasonably high in most industries but hiring not up to expectations. Construction employment diminished on inter-state highway projects but remained stable on several major building units. Trade volume not yet too brisk, but should advance for holiday season. Start of 1963 legislature will provide several hundred jobs next two months.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(616 jobseekers, 248 new, 437 men, 179 women). Jobseeker count down 50 per cent from last year in light of accelerated public works program, and increased activity in fields of construction, lumbering and trade. Libby plywood plant provided 150 new jobs. Christmas tree industry employed 175 seasonal workers. Forest service and park projects employing 270 under public works program.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(228 jobseekers, 97 new, 187 men, 41 women). Job placements down in both industry and agriculture during November. Employment decline most evident in construction with completed missile site facilities and suspension of some highway projects. Commercial building still at good pace. Farm labor demand reduced appreciably by warm weather.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(157 jobseekers, 42 new, 76 men, 81 women). Number of registered unemployed down 65 per cent from last November as employment holds at good force in most industry groups. Work continues on two highway projects. Logging and sawmill operations at near peak; timber fallers in demand. Main street payrolls expanded for holiday buying season. Farm labor demand quiet.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(204 jobseekers, 111 new, 132 men, 72 women). Labor market directions point to improved economy. Opening of new shopping center provided jobs for sales and clerical workers. Hiring by con-

172.5**

174.2

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)* Feb. March May July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. April lune Aver. 1954..... 1488 147.6 149.4 153.4 158.0 164.1 166.6 167.8 157.1 156.1 160.3 158.0 157.2 170.6 177.4 174.2 171.7 177.2 1955..... 149.0 169.2 172.9 179.8 168.3 174.6 150.6 149.6 155.6 160.7 164.7 162.7 162.1 177.4 172.0 1956..... 156.3 163.0 170.4 168.6 156.6 154.4 169.3 166.7 174.2 172.2 170.8 170.0 159,9 1957...... 156.8 167.4 155.0 156.8 161.3 166.0 163.2 164.8 170.2 1958..... 150.3 150.5 156.4 162.4 167.1 168.8 165.8 162.4 162,4 174.0 175.8 1959...... 155.3 153.2 155.9 162,2 167.5 177.5 179.2 169.9 165.6 161.5 159.4 165.1 174.8 176.8 175.8 176.9 176.0 171.6 172.4 152.5 156.1 163.5 168.4 177.7 167.5 164.5 166. 1961 156.9 154.8 156.1 160.2 165.1 173.3 178.1 169.0 166.2 167.

178.5

177.9

^{179 4} *Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for ndustry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Nov. 1

struction firms triple last November's activity. Some decline noted in service industries as highway construction completed and workers moved to other areas.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior
–(742 jobseekers, 545 new, 432 men, 310 women). Employment keeps at high levels in most industries but new hiring not too active in any. Unemployment claims down 40 per cent from last year. Seasonal activities in Christmas tree harvest and sugar beet refining nearing end. Healthy volume of main street business; new car sales show good trends. Construction continues at good clip.

POLSON—(159 jobseekers, 53 new, 117 men, 42 women). Favorable weather allowed much outside work in industry and farm to continue at good levels during November. Start of projects under the public works program helped to keep unemployment in check. All lumber mills are on steady schedules with very few layoffs.

SHELBY-(197 jobseekers, 76 new, 155 men, 42 women). Poor crop yields of last harvest now showing effect on local economy. Reduced volume of construction and oil field work also contributes to diminishing job prospects. Farm hiring not too active and chiefly for rock picking and general maintenance work.

SIDNEY—(80 jobseekers, 50 new, 57 men, 23 women). Employment demand in trade and manufacturing industries not up to expectations, but offset by fairly active trends in construction. Work progresses on telephone building, two service stations, and city hall, with total employment of 70. Sugar beet refining behind schedule but to wind up by February 1.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs-(61 jobseekers, 63 new, 36 men, 25 women). Job placements show fairly steady trends with some increase over October. Hiring by the forest service under public works programs helping to curb unemployment. Employment in logging and sawmills holds at near peak. One road job completed, work on new city hall-library continues. Unemployment claims down sharply from

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey-(157 jobseekers, 51 new, 111 men, 46 women). A new oil well in the Tule Creek field has stimulated activity in oil field circles. A new exploration crew moved into the Wolf Point area, four rigs are currently drilling in Sheridan County. Construction employment lessened with completion of some projects. Main street hiring in trade and service units at good seasonal levels. Farm labor demand fairly active.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 764 selected Montana estabsamples o
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,380 such establishments.
- Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- Includes apparel, chemicals, and laneous manufacturing products,

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL **INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)**

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)											
	EM	PLOYME		Net Change							
INDUSTRY	Nov. 1962 (2)	Oct. 1962 (3)	Nov. 1961	Oct. '62 to Nov. '62	Nov. '61 to Nov. '62						
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	172,500	174,200	169,000	1,700	3,500						
Manufacturing	24,000	24,600	21,300	600	2,700						
Durable goods	15,400	15,800	12,900	- 400	2,500						
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	8,300 3,400 3,700	3,400	3,600	00	200						
Nondurable goods	8,600	8,800	8,400	200	200						
Food and kindred products	5,300 1,600 1,100 600	1,600 1,100	1,600 1,100	00	00						
Mining Metal mining Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic Petroleum-natural gas production	7,000 3,800 700 2,500	3,900 700	4 , 100 900	— 100 00	— 300 — 200						
Contract Construction	13,600 2,900 4,700 6,000	3,200 4,900	3,400 4,900		- 500 - 200						
Transportation and utilities	17,700 7,900 3,900 5,900	8,000 4,000	4,100	$-\frac{100}{-100}$	<u>- 200</u> - 200						
Trade	39,400 8,300 31,100 6,000 5,100 7,400 6,400 6,200	8,100 31,400 5,900 5,000 7,800 6,400	6,100 4,900 7,400 6,300	- 200 300 100 100 400 00	- 400 100 - 100 200 00 100						
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,600	6,700	6,600	100	00						
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc	23,200 2,700 1,900 18,600	2,500 2,000	2,700 2,000	$\begin{bmatrix} 200 \\ 100 \end{bmatrix}$							
Government Federal State and local	41,000 10,600 30,400	11,100	10,900	[- 500	- 300						
Great Falls Area (Cascade County) Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate Services and miscellaneous (7) Government	23,900 5,400 2,200 2,100 5,500 1,200 3,500 4,000	5,200 2,800 2,200 5,500 1,200 3,500	3,400 3,500 2,300 5,500 1,200 3,500	200 600 100 00 00	- 2,000 - 1,300 - 200 00 00 00						
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	2,600 7,300 1,300 4,100	3,000 1,600 2,600 7,300 1,300 4,200	2,900 1,400 2,800 7,500 1,400 4,000	- 100 00 00 00 00 00 - 100							

⁽⁶⁾ Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motton pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and hustnesses not otherwise classified.

⁽⁷⁾ Same as (6) above. Also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

⁽⁸⁾ Same as (8) above. Also includes mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN NOV. 1962 AND NOV. 1961

Employment	Nev	Applica	ints	Jo	bseeke	rs in l	File			J	ob Pla	cement				UIC	laims*	
Service	Nov.	1962	Nov.	1961	Nov.	1962	Nov.	1961		Nov.	1962	1	1	Nov.	1961		Wk.	12-7
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1962	1961
					1			Ι,	1	1	4	1		1	- 1			
Anaconda	68	16		12	260	43	368	36	68	8	76	17	29	6	35	7	232	222
Billings	781			174	2,069	410		506	458	152	610	124	484	201	685	199	1,064	1.336
Bozeman	213	28		33	412	65	534	128	134	20	154	33	139	33	172	37	252	307
Butte	450			65	943	148	1,409	302	162	1	163	63	78	3	81	20	510	760
Cut Bank	73	13	103	25	296	90	384	61	34	4	38	10	44	16	60	26	152	165
Dillon	70	22		28	117	33	165	45	90,	41	131	47	46	44	90	41	87	108
Glasgow	83	19		31	186	29	464	88	69	19	88	12	91	5	96	14	192	320
Glendive	48	4	93	18	117	11	228	47	81	24	105	18	57	7	64	21	64	151
Great Falls	570			127	1,377	340	1,774	457	349	98	447	109	300	25	325	121	891	1.272
Hamilton		15	65	21	132	25	296	66	144	36	180	50	49	31	80	26	88	212
Havre	151	31	124	29	295	83	357	99	105	21	126	62]	101	38	139	56	192	284
Ilelena	204	45	244	52	511	124	574	148	133	12	145	35'	107	25	132	34	396	513
Kalispell	248	45	172	33	616	126	1,312	350	429	6	435	127	149	2	151	32	545	1,421
Lewistown	97	21	97	28	228	55	205	57	65	17)	82]	28)	80	16	96	37	202	199
Livingston	42	5	109	14	157	15	444	106	46	8	54	14	62	4	66	11	253	326
Miles City	111	18		24	204	39	208	47	95	32	127	26	53	46	99	28	129	263
Missoula	545	80		64	742	178	1,290	264	227	25	252	90	206	17	223	74	489	686
Polson	53	10		18	159	44	261	58	45	5	50	16	114	26	140	46	162	263
Shelby	76	9	59	12	197	59	284	79	56	11	67	25	73	22	95	40	139	200
Sidney	50	5	47	6	80	14	138	18	48	20	68	8	51	27	78	25	41	105
Thomp. Falls	63	18	47	20	61	12	173	47	77	6	83	38	15		15	2	46	177
Wolf Point	51	13	70	15	157	31	315	67	28	19	47	9	19	6	25	9	119	247
TOTATE	4.112	ラウミ	4.050	849	0.216	1.074	14.050	3,076	2.012	505	2 5 70	061	2 247		2015	1		
TOTAJ,S	4,112	775	4,050	049	9,316	1,974	14,059	3,070	2,943	585	3,528	961	2,347	600	2,947	906	6,245	9,537

^{*}Includes 432 claims of he Fed. UC Program 397 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average Weekly Earnings Average Weekly Hours					Hours	Average Hourly Earnings			
INDUSTRY	Nov.(1) 1962	Nov.(2) 1962	Nov. 1961	Nov.(1) 1962	Nov.(2) 1962	Nov. 1961	Nov.(1) 1962	Nov.(2) 1962	Nov. 1961	
All Manufacturing	\$ 98.95	\$103.57	\$ 99.46 (93.99)	38.5	40.3	38.7 (37.9)	2.57	2.57	2.57 (2.48)	
Durable goods	102.03	106.81	94.13 (87.40)	39.7	41.4	37.5 (35.1)	2.57	2.58	2.51	
Primary metalsNondurable goods	102.82 98.80	102.56 96.52	103.86 109.20 (106.52)	39.7 38.0	39.6 38.0	40.1 40.9 (43.3)	2.59 2.60	2.59 2.54	(2.49) 2.59 2.67	
Food and kindred products	82.43	83.42	97.43	37.3	38.8	43.3 (45.5)	2.21	2.15	(2.46) 2.25 (2.01	
All Mining	113.44	113.71	109.88	41.1	41.5	41.0 (40.2)	2.76	2.74	2.68 (2.68)	
Metal mining	109.16	109.16	105.07	38.3	38.3	39.5	2.85	2.85	2.66	
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.) Transportation (except railroads) Utilities and communications	101.65	101.91	99.05	39.4	39.5	40.1	2.58	2.58	2.47	

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

NOTE: Sample improvement has resulted in some hours and earnings series which are not comparable with those previously published. Year ago estimates as previously presented are supplied in parenthesis directly under the groups affected. Complete revisions January, 1961 to date will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

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